

“Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read...” – Isaiah 34:16

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## Introduction

In the past several years, I’ve begun focusing on right pronunciation of words – that is, words in God’s book. In this first newsletter of 2021, I thought I’d introduce a new section entitled “Pronounce it Right”... which is the same title given to the notes for one of our live bible study nights back in 2019. I wouldn’t want to be unkind toward any person specifically, so let me just say very generally that often enough, from childhood to today, I’ve heard pronunciations of words ... “butchered” ... by people in public readings of the scriptures. Most often it is related to names or places, and the reader often self-admits and apologizes for stumbling over the words. Of course, God’s word concerning pronunciation goes much further than just saying the words rightly, as those 2019 study notes pointed out, and which will be duly noted herein. I hope you enjoy, and that you embark on this “journey” with me in learning to “pronounce it right” as we read from... the book of the LORD ...which God has given to the English-speaking world for these last days – the King James Bible.

## Pronounce it Right

Judges 12:6

To begin this topic, let me first say that we should not let it be lost upon us that it is in the book of Judges that we find the phrase, “pronounce it right.”

Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to **pronounce it right**. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand. (**Judges 12:6**).

The point is not that if we can’t pronounce it right, we deserve to be slain... the Ephraimites were slain for fighting against the Gileadites whose leader (Jephthah) was a man of God. The point is that, ability (or inability – or disinterest in learning?) to rightly pronounce certain words... identified those who were on God’s side and those who were not. Remember the words of Jesus...

He that is not with me is against me... (Matthew 12:30)

Note well that Jephthah (Jephthae) is mentioned as one of the “heroes of faith” right alongside (among others)... David, Samuel, and the prophets...

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of **Jephthae**; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: (Hebrews 11:32)

To get straight to the actual point now, we should consider well that God’s book – the book of the LORD – in its entirety – is called “the law” ... and it is by that law (by the words in the King James Bible) that we whose tongue is English will be judged. For those of us that are men and women of God, and who are proclaiming God’s law to the lost (and to the backslidden saved), it is extremely important that we care enough about God’s law to learn how to “frame” each word so as to “pronounce it right.”

*Why?*

... for **I** have pronounced the word, saith the **LORD**.  
(Jeremiah 34:5)

*What word is that?*

The word which came ... **from the LORD**  
(Jeremiah 34:1)

*Which words?*

... **all** the words that **I** [the LORD] have spoken unto thee... (Jeremiah 36:2)

*How were all these words transmitted?*

... Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the **LORD**, which **he** [the LORD] had **spoken** unto him [*Jeremiah*]... (Jeremiah 36:4)

... He [*Jeremiah*] **pronounced** all these words unto me [*Baruch*] with his **mouth**, and I wrote them with ink in the book. (Jeremiah 36:18)

Pronouncing God’s words rightly requires that it actually be God’s words that we are pronouncing. So, first and foremost, we must be pronouncing the words of the King James Bible, and none other. And then, I have found it to be a huge help to be using a copy of the KJB that retains all the pronunciation aids (the “jots and tittles” of the English tongue). Just as one example, make sure the word you are pronouncing is JĔ-HŌ’-VĀH; not Yahweh. (This is the barest of an introduction... we will dig into this topic much more in forthcoming newsletters.)

## Science Snippet

1 Timothy 6:20

In 1 John, we read that God is light...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

In this verse, **light** is speaking of the righteousness and holiness of God; not the light by which we see with our eyes. (I.e., God is not electro-magnetic radiation.)

But, God did **create** light; and in identifying himself **as** light, I wonder if the light he created has some features that relate (just by analogy) to what God is like? So let's consider a couple characteristics of light and how they might relate (by analogy) to God.

Without going into any **deep** science, let's consider the theory of Special Relativity. According to the theory, there is a very strange (to us) phenomenon with light, expressed as "**length contraction**" or "**time dilation**". According to the former view, as something approaches the speed of light, the **length** (distance) that it is traversing actually **contracts** (shortens). According to the latter view, as something approaches the speed of light, the **time** that is elapsing **dilates** (slows down). Either way of thinking about it, if something is actually travelling **at** the speed of light, the distance that it is traversing contracts to zero (or to say it the other way, the time that is elapsing slows down to zero). What does this mean? (Keep in mind that we're leading to an analogy.) A "photon" of light, which is travelling at the speed of light from point A to point B, sees the distance from A to B as being zero (or, it sees the elapsed time as being zero). Now what if the "photon" continues past point B and on to point C? The distance is still zero (the elapsed time is still zero). In other words, a "photon" of light exists at points A, B, and C (and indeed everywhere along its path of travel) at the same time. It is as though distance (or time) does not exist with light.

The analogy is that, like light, God can be everywhere at once – there is no distance and no time from his own point of view.

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art **there**: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art **there**. (Psalms 139:8)

Declaring the **end** from the **beginning**, (Isaiah 46:10)

Could this (?) give deeper meaning to the words...

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which **was**, and **is**, and **is to come**. (Revelation 4:8 [& 1:4, 1:8])

I should point out that the **length contraction** (or **time dilation**) summarized above is as viewed by the light as it is doing the travelling. From the view of a person standing still and observing the travel of the light, things are **way** different. So, now, let's consider how **we** view light. To do so, we must understand one crucial piece of information... In the theory of relativity, the speed of light is merely **assumed** to be a constant. Though the average round-trip speed of light can be measured by a stationary observer (using a mirror), the actual speed of light at any instant in time is not measurable by the stationary observer. Thus, the **assumed** speed of light, that we hear about all the time, is not scientifically known or **knowable**. All we can ever know is that it is somewhere between half of the round-trip (**average**) speed and infinity. Light could be traveling at half of the average round trip speed when it is travelling away from us (from our stationary point of view), and at an infinite speed when travelling back to us. What this means, as it pertains to God's written word, is that there is **no scientific contradiction whatsoever** between God creating the heaven and the earth, and the stars (including galaxies billions of "light-years" away) only 6000 years ago, and us being able to see them today. Scientifically-speaking, light does not need 13 billion years to travel 13 billion light-years. If light speed is infinite when it is travelling toward us, then we are seeing all of the stars (no matter their individual distances from us) in real-time, not delayed-time as the scientists who **assume** a constant speed of light **pretend** to know. We are to believe **God**, and not be swayed by unbelieving scientists, or by those who compromise the word of God to obtain the approval of men.

For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, **let God be true, but every man a liar**; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. (Romans 3:3-4)

**Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly** dividing the word of truth. But **shun profane and vain babblings**: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. (2 Timothy 2: 15-16)

One other fascinating thing about light, relating to the famous equation  $E=mc^2$ , is that a mass ( $m$ ) that is at rest is "dark" (if  $c=0$ , then  $E=0$  and there is no energy, and thus no light). But if it is moving at the speed of light ( $c$ ) it becomes pure energy ( $E$ ) – i.e., pure light. If it is moving almost (but not quite) at the speed of light, the

mass still has at least a little bit of darkness yet in it, and also (as noted above) it is no longer everywhere at once along its path of travel.

Now think back again to 1 John 1:5...

**God is light**, and **in him is no darkness at all**.

And, also this (concerning Jesus)

... the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. (John 14:30)

### Critics' Corner

Jeremiah 23:36, 2 Corinthians 2:17

There is a terrible thing being promoted and taught in our public schools and colleges & universities today, called Critical Race Theory. I'm not going to explain what that is, or get into any politics surrounding it. I only mention it because of its recent elevation to a prominent view in politics, media, education, and law, and to point out what God has to say about it.

In the KJB, the words "critical" and "theory" are not found (unless you consider the word "hypocritical", which describes the proponents of Critical Race Theory). The word "race", on the other hand, does occur – four times – but it refers only to the running of a race (Psalms 19:5, Ecclesiastes 9:11, 1 Corinthians 9:24, Hebrews 12:1), and never to what our society today calls "race" (which they use to divide us). In fact, the very concept of "race" is based upon the "critical" "theory" that the different "races" of man evolved from different evolutionary ancestors at different rates and times, such that some "races" are "more evolved" than others and are thus superior to them. The concept of "race" justified the "Greek" committing a holocaust against the "Jew". The concept of race is founded upon a blatant rejection (criticism) of what God has told us in his written word ...

[God] hath made of **one blood** all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth... (Acts 17:26).

With God (in God's kingdom... among God's people) there is no "race" to divide us. Rather...

**There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one** in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28).

Those who hate God – and his written word – are the ones who cause division. Yet, I must say that there is certainly a division that God calls for. Speaking to Pharaoh in Egypt (representing those today who hate God and his written word), God has this to say...

... I will **sever** ... the land ... in which my people dwell ... And I will put a **division** between **my** people and **thy** people... (Exodus 8:22-23)

And...

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather **division**: (Luke 12:51)

And...

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences **contrary** to the doctrine which ye have learned; and **avoid** them. (Romans 16:17)

And...

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the **same** thing, and that there be **no divisions among you**; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the **same** mind and in the **same** judgment. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

All criticism, whether the "science" (falsely so-called) of "Textual Criticism" or "Critical Race Theory" or anything else of the like, begins with a rejection of the book of the LORD. In the English-speaking world, it begins with a rejection of the King James Bible. It begins with those who are contrary to the doctrine of God's book. Plain and simple.

### Numbers

Psalms 71:15

Referring back to the new topic (Pronounce it Right), it is probable that the most mis-pronounced words in God's book are the myriad of names in the books of the Chronicles. If that is the case, would it be by just mere happenstance (???) or coincidence (???) that both the word "chronicles" and the word "pronounce" occur the exact same number of times in the KJB...

chronicles	38x
pronounce	23x
pronouncing	1x
pronounced	14x

} 38x

I'm not currently aware of a significance to the number thirty-eight (38) in and of itself; but could this exact same number of occurrences indicate a connection between the Chronicles (with all those hard-to-pronounce names) and God's desire for us to learn how to frame those names with our own mouths so as to be able to ... pronounce it right?

May I dare say that... hard-to-pronounce words are hard to pronounce only until we learn to pronounce them. Then, they are no longer hard to pronounce. Instead, they will "roll of our tongue" just as easily as other words we've learned to pronounce.

## Quote to Note

I don't think it will come as a surprise to anyone that the quote to note for this edition of the newsletter is...

...frame to pronounce it right... (Judges 12:6)

For some it may be easier (or harder) than for others; but nevertheless, we are all capable of learning how. And might I say that, if we choose to be humble, we can graciously receive correction in our pronunciation of God's words without taking offense or feeling shame.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. (Proverbs 9:9)

I desire to be "yet wiser" and to "increase in learning" – in the things (the words) of God. I hope you do too.

## Recipe Share

I've been wanting to share this recipe for some time now ... Mac&Cheese ... my favorite childhood pasta recipe, the way my Mom made it – elbow Mac with Velveeta cheese (and the cheese slightly burnt).

When I was a child, I loved Velveeta cheese. I'd eat it sliced on Waverly Wafer crackers or rolled up in a slice of ekrich bologna (no, don't say "yuck"), or often just all by itself. Sometimes I'd eat a slice with a spoonful of applesauce on top (yummmmm!!!!) And of course, I loved it in pasta recipes, such as Baked Spaghetti that I shared in the June 1, 2019 newsletter. I also used it for grilled cheese, and always made sure there was a hole in the slices of bread so that the melting Velveeta could ooze through and get burnt (I LOVE the taste of burnt Velveeta cheese).

This may be the very first time that I truly do not have at any idea of a KJB tie-in.

Wait! Maybe I do!

There are 33 occurrences of names in the KJB that start with ... "Mac"

And there are 3 occurrences of the word ... "cheese(s)"  
 $33 \div 3 = 11$  ... which – as indicated in prior newsletters – is a number related to "understanding". Hmmm....

Anyway, without further ado, here it is [I modified the name to call it "Macaroni & Burnt Cheese" since it is the slightly burnt flavor of the Velveeta that make this such a favorite of mine, personally].

## **Macaroni & (Burnt) Cheese**

1 box (16 oz) (3 cups) of macaroni  
1 box (large) of Velveeta cheese (original)  
(It must be Velveeta, else it's not my recipe)

Cook macaroni per box directions, then drain & rinse.  
Cut Velveeta into 3 cups worth of ~1/4" to 3/8" cubes.

Mix the following:

1 teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon (or so) black pepper  
½ cup (or so) chopped onion  
4 eggs  
4 cups (whole) milk  
4 Tablespoons butter

(You can add pimentos if you want, for color)

Layer mac, cheese, & mix in deep casserole baking dish.  
(layer of mac, layer of cheese, cover layer with mix, etc... 3-4 layers is how I typically do it)

Stir before placing in oven.

Bake uncovered at 350° for about 1 hour. Stir mid-way.

At about 1 hour, stir once more, and then extend baking in 5-minute increments until top appears medium brown, indicating that the Velveeta is becoming slightly burnt. It is that slightly burnt Velveeta (on the top, and along the sides of the dish) that makes this ... truly ... my recipe 😊.

(If you divide into two smaller baking dishes, you'll have to experiment with the time, as it may take less.)

## Wrap-up

I would encourage all of us to begin (or continue) practicing to pronounce the words in God's book; to learn to "frame" them (as God puts it) in our minds and with our mouths; so that when we read or speak God's word aloud, it will become easier and easier to ...

...frame to pronounce it right. (Judges 12:6)

Also, let us begin (or continue) turning mass into energy (getting ourselves into motion serving the LORD). By doing so, we can dissipate darkness and cause more light to shine from our lives. The ultimate goal (though not fully achievable in this lifetime) would be to do as it is written in Genesis 1:4 – to divide the light from the darkness. A final word from Psalms 112:4...

...Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: